

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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CONFIDENTIAL CANBERRA 1274

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AS, OVIP (CLEMENTS, WILLIAM P. JR.)

SUBJ: VISIT OF DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE CLEMENTS

REF: A. STATE 041397

B. CANBERRA A-27 FEB 18, 1975

C. SECDEF ISA 1301012 FEB 75

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS WILL ARISE DURING THE COURSE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S VISIT- NUCLEAR SHIP VISITS, U.S. DEFENSE FACILITIES, OMEGA, THE DOCTRINE OF FLEXIBLE RESPONSE, TIMOR, INDIAN OCEAN POLICY, AUSTRALIAN MILITARY PROCUREMENT, INDOCHINA, PLANNED U.S. MILITARY CONSTRUCTION ON TINIAN AND THE NPT AND NUCLEAR TESTS IN THE PACIFIC. END SUMMARY.

2. SUBJECTS WHICH THE DEPUTY SECRETARY MIGHT WISH TO RAISE:

(A) NPW VISITS - BY THE TIME THE DEPUTY SECRETARY ARRIVES THE EMBASSY WILL HAVE PRESENTED THE AIDE MEMOIRE AND ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS ON NPW VISITS AS PER REFTEL A. THIS SHOULD LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF NPW VISITS WITH THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND OTHER

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GOA OFFICIALS AND TO ASK FOR THEIR VIEWS ON PROSPECTS FOR

RESUMPTION OF NPW VISITS.

(B) JOINT DEFENSE FACILITIES - THE DEPUTY SECRETARY NEED NOT SPEND A GREAT DEAL OF TIME DISCUSSING THE FACILITIES, BUT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR HIM TO EXPRESS TO THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE OUR APPRECIATION FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT AT THE ALP CONFERENCE IN TERRIGAL FEB 3-7, 1975, IN WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT GIVE NOTICE TO TERMINATE THE PINE GAP AGREEMENT IN DECEMBER 1975. THE PRIME MINISTER'S EXACT WORDS WERE QTE I WOULD GIVE NO SUCH NOTICE. THERE IS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR DOING SO. I HAVE NO MANDATE FROM THE PARTY TO DO SO. END QTE THIS IS THE MOST FORTHCOMING STATEMENT WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER HAS MADE ON THE EXTENSION OF THE PINE GAP AGREEMENT. IN ADDITION THE PRIME MINISTER MADE A NUMBER OF OTHER HELPFUL STATEMENTS ON THE JOINT FACILITIES AT THE TERRIGAL CONFERENCE. HE SAID THAT THE AMENDMENTS TO THE 1963 AGREEMENT ON NORTH-WEST CAPE (SIGNED BY THE AMBASSADOR AND THE PRIME MINISTER IN MARCH, 1974) ENABLED AUSTRALIA TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE STATION. HE ALSO STATED THAT THE LABOR GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED THE INSTALLATIONS AT PINE GAP AND WOOMERA, KNEW WHAT WAS GOING ON AT THE INSTALLATIONS, AND BELIEVED THAT AUSTRALIAN SOVEREIGNTH IS NOT DISADVANTAGED BY THE OPERATION OF THESE FACILITIES.

(C) AUSTRALIAN MILITARY PROCUREMENT - THE GOA IS CONSIDERING PURCHASING P-3 AIRCRAFT FROM U.S. AND IS BEGINNING TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF REPLACING ITS AGEING MIRAGE FIGHTERS AS WELL. THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT PM/SAS AND OSD/ISA PREPARE A PAPER FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OUTLINGIN MILITARY SALES POSSIBILITIES IN AUSTRALIA SO THAT THE DEPUTY SECRETARY CAN DISCUSS AUSTRALIAN REQUIREMENTS WITH DEFESNE MINISTER BARNARD. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT AUSTRALIAN DOD WILL RAISE A RANGE OF PROCUREMENT ISSUES WITH THE DEPUTY SECRETARY. AMONG OTHER THINGS, AUSTRALIANS WILL ASK FOR AN OUTLINE OF U.S. NAVY INTENTIONS ON NUMBER OF PATROL FRIGATES IT WILL PROCURE.

3. ISSUES WHICH THE AUSTRALIANS MIGHT RAISE:

(A) OMEGA - IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE AUSTRALIANS WILL RAISE
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THE OMEGA ISSUE. IF THEY DO SO, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPUTY SECRETARY REITERATE THAT THE OMEGA STATION IS A NAVIGATIONAL AID AND THAT ITS INSTALLATION IN AUSTRALIA WOULD BENEFIT COMMERICAL SHIPPING AS WELL AS MILITARY SHIPPING. HE COULD THEN INQUIRE ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF SECURING APPROVAL FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN OMEGA STATION IN AUSTRALIA.

(B) FLEXIBLE RESPONSE - OPPOSITION LEADER SNEEDEN HAS TOLD

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY THAT HE IS CONCERNED THAT THE DOCTRINE OF FLEXIBLE RESPONSE COULD INCREASE THE DANGER OF A NUCLEAR ATTACK ON JOINT DEFENSE FACILITIES IN AUSTRALIA AND RECENTLY WROTE HIM A LETTER CONCERNING THIS (SEE REFERENCE AIRGRAM). IF SNEDDEN OR ANOTHER SENIOR AUSTRALIAN RAISES THIS QUESTION AGAIN, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY SHOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS IT.

(C) TIMOR - THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED BY INDICATIONS THAT THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT MAY BE CONTEMPLATING THE FORCEFUL TAKEOVER OF PORTUGUESE TIMOR. IT IS LIKELY THAT THE DEPUTY SECRETARY WILL BE ASKED FOR CURRENT U.S. ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION AS WELL AS FOR SOME INDICATION OF WHAT THE PROBABLE U.S. REACTION WOULD BE IF SUCH A MOVE TAKES PLACE.

(D) INDIAN OCEAN POLICY - IT IS LIKELY THAT AUSTRALIAN OFFICIALS WILL AGAIN RAISE THE AUSTRALIAN PROPOSAL THAT THE INDIAN OCEAN BE RECOGNIZED AS A ZONE OF PEACE. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY SHOULD BE PREPARED TO REVIEW CURRENT U.S. INDIAN OCEAN POLICY DURING HIS VISIT. HE SHOULD ALSO BE PREPARED TO INFORM AUSTRALIAN OFFICIALS OF THE STATUS OF PLANNED EXTENSIONS TO DIEGO GARCIA.

(E) PLANNED MILITARY CONSTRUCTION ON TINIAN - THE AUSTRALIANS WOULD BE INTERESTED IN A RUNDOWN ON U.S. PLANS FOR MILITARY CONSTRUCTION OF JOINT MILITARY FACILITY ON TINIAN.

(F) NPT AND NUCLEAR TESTING IN THE PACIFIC - THE AUSTRALIANS MAY RAISE THE NPT TREATY AND THE ISSUE OF NUCLEAR TESTING IN THE PACIFIC. THE ISSUE IS RELATIVELY QUIET NOW BUT THE FRENCH HAVE ANNOUNCED AN AREA IN THE PACIFIC DANGEROUS TO NAVIGATION, AND THE AUSTRALIANS ARE STILL CONCERNED THAT THE ISSUE WILL ARISE AGAIN.

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(G) THE AUSTRALIANS WILL ALSO ASK THE DEPUTY SECRETARY TO DISCUSS THE MILITARY SITUATION IN INDOCHINA, ESPECIALLY THE FUTURE PROSPECTS IN CAMBODIA.

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